Systems on Indian Railways—a vision for the Future" was held on 23rd and 24th July, 2004 by the Institution of Railway Signal & Telecommunication Engineers (India).

(c) and (d) Modern Signalling and Telecommunication Systems such as Panel Interlocking/Route Relay Interlocking/Electronic Interlocking, Track Circuiting of station yards, Automatic Block Signalling, Block Proving through Axle Counter, Digital Axle Counters, Integrated Power Supply Systems, Data Loggers, Interlocking of level crossings, Train Management System, and Optical Fiber Cable Network, communication aids during emergencies and Mobile Train Radio Communication have been provided and are further being added on Indian Railways. Induction of such systems has improved safety and enhanced line capacity & operational flexibility.

Initiatives have also been taken to induct other important Modern Signalling and Telecommunication Systems such as Train Protection and Warning System & Anti Collision Devices at stations and Train Actuated Warning Systems at level crossings.

Provision of Modern Signalling & Telecommunication Systems improve safety considerably by:-

(i) Preventing human errors in operations and maintenance.

(ii) Preventing reception of a train on an occupied line.

(iii) Preventing conflicting train movements.

(iv) Preventing mid-section and station section collisions.

(v) Reducing the chances of collisions at Level Crossings by giving audio-visual warning to road users about an approaching train.

(vi) Providing instant communication amongst personnel engaged in various facets of operation and maintenance.

New Rail Lines in Andhra Pradesh

1726. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of surveys made for new rail lines in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have taken note of very slow pace of survey work on such rail lines;

(c) if so, the time schedule for completion of survey works; and

(d) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by Government for timely completion of survey works on those lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of new surveys sanctioned in last three years *i.e.* from 2001-02 to 2003-04 for laying of new rail lines falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Survey	Kms.	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Rate of Return (%)	Status
1.	Falaknuma-Umdanagar-(Shamshabad) Airport	20	56	(-) 0.5	As project does not serve any operational needs of the railways and shall primarily serve commuters of the area, consideration of the proposal would be feasible if State Government agrees to not only bear the full cost of the project but also the operating losses.
2.	Donakonda-Vodarevu	113	229	(-) 6.95	Proposal could not be taken up in view of acute constraint of resources and heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects.
3.	Mantralayam Road-Kurnool *via* Yemmanagar	111	241	3.07	Proposal could not be taken up in view of acute constraint of resources and heavy throw forward of ongoing projects.
4.	Hasthavaram-Krishnapatnam	129	390	16.48	Survey has been completed. Proposal will be implemented by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).

(b) to (d) All the surveys for new rail lines in Andhra Pradesh sanctioned during the last three years from 2001-02 to 2003-04 have been completed during the period and decision taken.

Village on Wheels

1727. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a 'Village on Wheels' train on the lines of 'Palace on Wheels';

(b) if so, the details and the salient features;

(c) the number of such trains which are proposed to be introduced and the area to be covered by each train;

(d) the per passenger fare of this train and the facilities to be provided to the passengers travelling by this train;

(e) whether Railways also propose to start similar trains from other important places in Northern (Jammu Tawi and Delhi), Western (Udaipur, Mumbai and Goa) and Southern (Bangalore, Chennai etc.) regions of the country;

(f) if so, by when; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways has launched a new special tourist train called the 'Bharat Darshan' consisting of sleeper class coaches to run on pre-determined circuits to enable tourists from different regions to visit important places of religious, cultural and historical importance at an affordable cost as a comprehensive package including boarding and lodging, sightseeing, local transport, meals etc. The first train has been flagged off on 29/11/2004 in the following circuit:

Rajendra Nagar-Patna-Varanasi-Agra-Mathura-Delhi-Jammu Tawi (Vaishno Devi)-Amritsar-Haridwar (Rishikesh)-Patna-Rajendra Nagar.